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TO RUEHOC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4451

INFO RUSSCO/AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD 8943

RUEHMO/AMEMBASSY MOSCOW 1695

RUEHAE/AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI 6988

RUEHHR/AMEMBASSY TEHRAN 0056

BT

C O N F I D E N T I A L KASUL 4893

E.O. 12865: GDS 6/25/85 (ANSTUTZ, J. BRUCE) OR-M

TAGS: SHUM, PINT, UR, AF, PINE

SUPJ: (C) MEETING WITH SOVIET DIPLOMAT: PART III OF III -
HUMAN RIGHTS

REF: (A) KASUL 4886, (B) KASUL 4889

1. (C - ENTIRE TEXT)

2. SUMMARY. I REVEINED WITH SAFFRONCHUK THE DEPLORABLE
SITUATION RESPECTING ARRESTS AND EXECUTIONS OF POLITICAL
PRISONERS AND URGED HIS EMBASSY'S HELP. END SUMMARY.

3. HUMAN RIGHTS CAME UP DURING OUR DISCUSSION OF THE INSUR-
GENCY. WHEN SAFFRONCHUK CITED RELIGION AS THE PREDOMINANT
REASON FOR OPPOSITION SENTIMENT, I TOLD HIM THAT WHILE I
AGREED IT WAS THE SINGLE MOST IMPORTANT FACTOR, I THOUGHT
THERE WAS AT LEAST ONE OTHER MAJOR REASON WHY THE DRA HAD
LOST MUCH PUBLIC SUPPORT--NAMELY, HUMAN RIGHTS.

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4. I TOLD HIM THAT IT WAS OUR INFORMATION THAT PUL-E-CHARKHI PRISON HAD, AT ANY ONE TIME, BETWEEN 12,000 TO 15,000 INMATES. WHEN HE RESPONDED THAT IT WASN'T LARGE ENOUGH TO HOUSE THAT MANY PRISONERS, I SAID THAT IS TRUE, BUT THE EXPLANATION WE HAD BEEN GIVEN WAS THAT THE PRISONERS TOOK TURNS LYING DOWN TO SLEEP. I WENT ON TO SAY THAT NOT ONLY WERE THERE THOUSANDS BEING HELD THERE, BUT NIGHTLY MANY WERE BEING EXECUTED. I SAID WE HAD REASON TO BELIEVE THAT, AT A MINIMUM, 3,000 POLITICAL PRISONERS HAD BEEN KILLED SINCE LAST SEPTEMBER. NOT A WEEK PASSED BUT WE DID NOT LEARN OF FURTHER POLITICAL ARRESTS, AND I SURMISED THAT FEW HOUSEHOLDS EXISTED IN KABUL THAT DID NOT HAVE A RELATIVE OR FRIEND WHO HAD BEEN PURGED FROM HIS JOB, IMPRISONED OR EXECUTED. AS A HUMAN BEING, I TOLD HIM I FOUND THIS ASPECT OF THE DRA'S RECORD REPUGNANT AND WISHED I COULD DO MORE ABOUT IT.

5. SAFRONCHUK RESPONDED THAT BEING NEW HERE, HE DIDN'T KNOW MUCH ABOUT "THESE THINGS," BUT HE DID KNOW THAT THE DRA WAS VERY SENSITIVE ABOUT "ANY INTERFERENCE INTO ITS INTERNAL AFFAIRS." HE IMPLIED THAT THE SOVIET EMBASSY COULD DO LITTLE IN THIS AREA BUT PROMISED TO LOOK INTO THE MATTER.

6. COMMENT: I HAVE NO ILLUSIONS THAT MY DEMARCHE WILL LEAD TO MUCH GOOD. THE SOVIETS HARDLY HAVE AN EXEMPLARY RECORD IN PRACTICING OR ADVOCATING HUMAN RIGHTS. I THINK THOUGH IT WAS USEFUL TO APPRISE THE SOVIETS THAT WE KNOW ABOUT THE DEPLORABLE CONDITIONS AT PUL-E-CHARKHI AND ARE CONCERNED ABOUT IT. AMSTUTZ

BT

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